

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 remain in this application. Claim 1 has been amended and new claims 24-33 added. Claims 17-20 stand allowed. Claims 2-5, 8-12, 15 and 16 were indicated as allowable in independent form. Each of these claims has been combined with claim 1 and presented in independent form. (claims 26-33). Applicants submit that these claims are now allowable. Claims 1, 6, 7, 13 and 14 were rejected as unpatentable over Moskovich in view of Ning. Claim 1 has been amended and Applicants submit that as amended, it and the rejected dependent claims are allowable.

Regarding the rejection of claim 1, Moskovich shows in Fig. 1 that the negative lens L3 has a plane at the image side surface (Table I S6 Plano), and in all the tables that the image side surface of the third lens is a plane or spherical surface. Ning is nothing more than a reference showing that the second lens is a negative lens and the third lens is a positive lens.

On the other hand, the third negative lens recited in claim 1 as amended has "an image side surface defined by an aspheric surface that is in contact with air at the image side surface". This arrangement is particularly favorable for the correction of off-axis aberrations. Thus, claim 1 as amended defines over the art. Nothing in the references suggests what is now claimed.

Since they depend on claims 1, claims 2-16 are also allowable. Similarly, new claims 21 and 22, also depending on claim 1, are allowable as claim 1 is allowable.

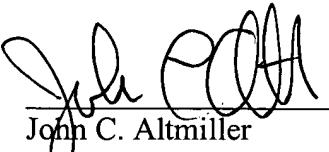
In view of the above, Applicants believe that all claims remaining in this application are in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

Appl. No. 10/817,174
Amdt. dated June 27, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 19, 2005

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,



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